

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
2936 S. West Street
Visalia, California 93277
November 13, 1987

Part III Activities and Operational Information

3. The activities of the Mineral King Preservation Society (MKPS) this 1st year in operation have primarily consisted of informing the public about our organization, researching the history of Mineral King, and on-site inspection of the area (consisting of 15 square miles) and the historical sites within. The Mineral King Valley is located in Sequoia National Park and during the years of 1873-1889 it was the scene of a "booming" silver rush. After the silver rush the area became a vacation spot for families from the valley below to escape the hot summers.

The purpose of the MKPS is to complete a district application for the Mineral King Valley in the National Historic Register. We are a grass-roots organization of people who love Mineral King and want to save what is left of the historical aspects and artifacts of this area. Even though the mining was a "bust" it brought many people to Tulare County and helped settle this area--the miners became farmers. Too much time has been lost now--artifacts disappear each year, old timers with fascinating oral histories pass on, and soon everything will be buried in the past. The MKPS has hired a Historian and Cultural Resource person to help us complete this research and application. We need this non-profit status to complete our purpose and objectives. The NPS has neither the time or money for this research, this activity is far down on their priority list, thus it takes a volunteer group like ours to accomplish this monumental task.

Past Activities (1987)

- (1) Over 400 mailings have been sent to people interested in Mineral King for contributions and donations.
- (2) Mailings sent to cabin owners in Mineral King for detailed cabin histories.
- (3) The MKPS had a luncheon honoring 3 well known historians in Tulare County with life memberships in the MKPS who have been helping us in our research.
- (4) One of the above octogenarians has made speeches on our behalf to local Rotary Clubs.
- (5) There have been "press releases" in local newspapers informing the public about our organization.
- (6) Members of MKPS and the public were invited to our 1st Annual "Picnic in the Park" in Mineral King July 1987. The NPS historian, Acting Chief Park Interpreter, and the MKPS historian were the speakers on the program.
- (7) The MKPS members hiked to various historical sites in Mineral King.

- (8) The MKPS had a mining display 1873-1900 in the ranger station at Mineral King of artifacts and photos loaned or donated to us.
 - (9) For the 1st time ever, structures were surveyed on to the lot parcels in Mineral King.
 - (10) Attended 2nd Annual Conference on Historic Preservation and Economic Revitalization in Rural California, Oct. 1987, Hanford, Ca.
- Present Activities: Continuing to solicit memberships, donations, research.

- Future Activities
- (1) The Mineral King National Bank has the MKPS mining display in their lobby for public view for the winter. An official opening has been planned by the bank for the MKPS with newspaper and TV coverage for the 2nd week in December 1987.
 - (2) An over night stay has been planned in the historic Sweet Cabin in Laurel Canyon on the Mineral King Road in January 1988.
 - (3) We want to have a hike on the Old Mineral King Road from Oak Grove down to the Old Bear Ranch in 1988.
 - (4) The 2nd Annual "Picnic in the Park" will be in July 1988 in Mineral King.
 - (5) We plan to have the papers completed for the National Historic Register for Mineral King.
 - (6) We would eventually like to have a permanent "home" or museum in Mineral King for all the artifacts, photos, memorabilia, etc.
 - (7) We plan to have a definitive history of the Mineral King Valley and publish a book on our research.

Research Activities have been performed and data collected from the following locations:

- (1) Tulare County Library, Tulare County Court House, Tulare County Museum.
- (2) Sacramento State Library and Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, Native American Indian Bureau, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), EPA,, special consultants: archaeologists, architectural historian, geologist, surveyors, etc.
- (3) San Francisco Library, and Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California.
- (4) Bureau of Mines, Division of Mines, U.S. Geologic Survey offices.
- (5) Huntington Library

Specific Benefits: Belonging to an active, viable organization of people interested in preserving the past. Members will receive a Newsletter participate in activities, meetings and events of the organization. The MKPS offers the knowledge that it has helped preserve a precious moment in history for posterity and offers a new beginning for Mineral King--a chance to keep what we have in the valley for future generations to see and enjoy.